Further a Council on Climate Change, chaired by Prime Minister, has been set up. This Council shall coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The focus of the Committee would be to:

(i) Evolve a coordinated response to issues relating to climate change at the national level;

(ii) Provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change;

(iii) Periodically monitor key policy decisions.

High Acid Content in rainwater

*172. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact that a study conducted by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has found high acid content in rainwater in Pune and Nagpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The India Meteorological Department (IMD) maintains a network of Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) stations that follow the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) norms. Rainwater samples collected at 10 locations are analyzed regularly and this data is available for about 28 years now.

The study mentioned in the question was conducted using this data and statistical analysis has shown an increasing acidity of the rain samples collected from Pune and Nagpur. However, the rain water at these places is still in the alkaline range due to the dominance of neutralizing agents in the dust.

Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti

* 173 KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for Indian Missions to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti in a special manner in view of the United Nations declaring Gandhi Jayanti as International Day of Non-violence; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to involve friends interested in Mahatma Gandhi in every country on that day?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On June 15, 2007 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on 'International Day of Non-Violence' piloted by India with the co-sponsorship of 142 countries to annually observe and

celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, October 2, as the International Day of Nonviolence. Indian Missions abroad will celebrate Gandhi Jayanti in a special manner to mark the first observance of the International Day of Non-Violence on October 2,2007. These celebrations will involve friends interested in Mahatma Gandhi and his message of peace, truth and non-violence. Special commemoration activities are also being organised on October 2, 2007 at the United Nations in New York to observe this historic occasion.

Registration of case by CBI for re-routing international calls as local calls

*174. SHRI UDAYPRATAP SINGH:

SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI had registered a case against the officials of erstwhile Reliance Infocom in September 2006 regarding rerouting of international calls as local, which caused extensive loss of revenue to Government; and

(b) the status of the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information received from CBI, the investigation of the case has not been completed as on date and CBI is making all efforts to complete the investigation at the earliest. It is not possible to define any time limit for completion of the investigation.

Population living on borders

†*175. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China in an agreement had agreed two years ago that both the countries would protect the interests of their population settled in the border areas while sorting out the solution of border dispute;

(b) whether it is also a fact that China is now backing out of its said promise; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps being taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (c) The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question in New

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.